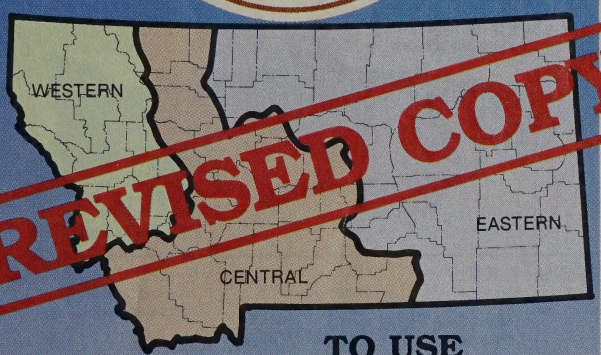
MONTANA

F·I·S·H·I·N·G

REGULATIONS

1996 1997



REVISED COPY

TO USE THESE REGULATIONS

1. STATEWIDE GENERAL Regulations & Information.....pages 3-14

2. Locate your district on map and turn to that section.

WESTERN DISTRICT....pages 15-25

CENTRAL DISTRICT.....pages 26-40

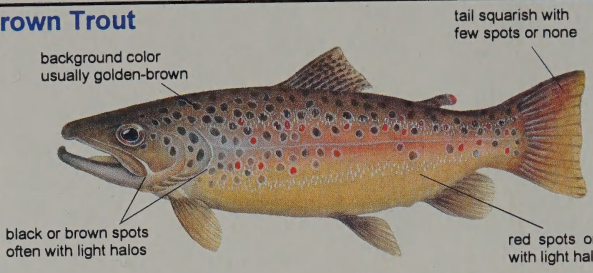
EASTERN DISTRICT.....pages 41-47

3. STANDARD REGULATIONS (those applying to most waters) are at the beginning of each district's pages.

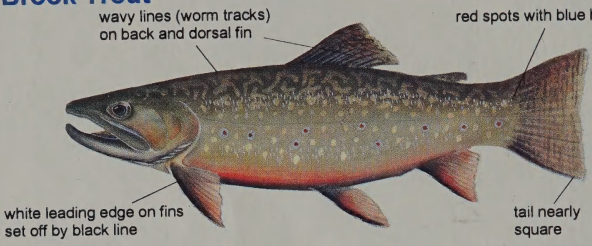
4. SPECIAL REGULATIONS (listed alphabetically by name of water) are on pages following the standard regulations for each district. IF a body of water is not listed here, the standard regulations apply.

Coldwater Fish

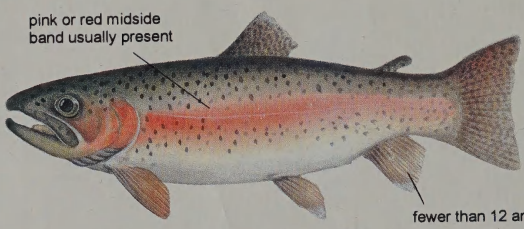
Brown Trout


tail squarish with few spots or none
background color usually golden-brown
black or brown spots often with light halos
red spots on sides with light halos

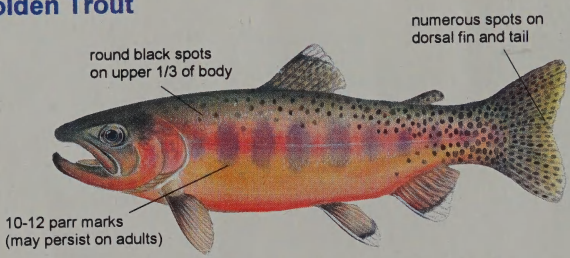
Brook Trout


wavy lines (worm tracks) on back and dorsal fin
red spots with blue halos
white leading edge on fins set off by black line
tail nearly square

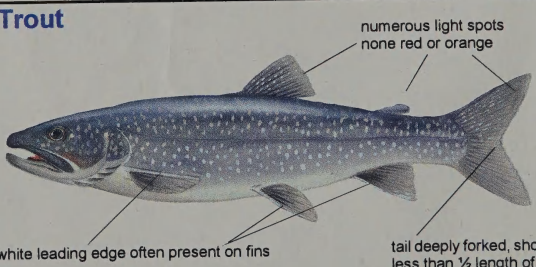
Rainbow Trout



Golden Trout



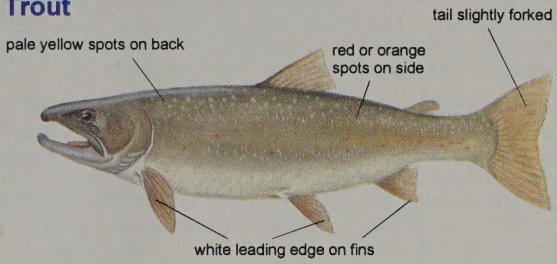
Lake Trout


numerous light spots none red or orange
white leading edge often present on fins
tail deeply forked, shortest ray less than ⅓ length of longest

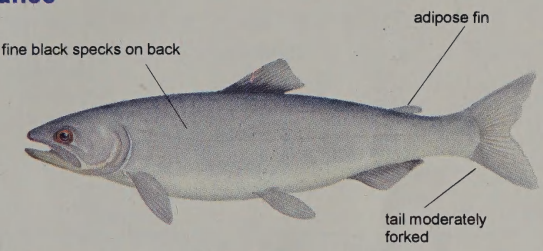
The fish illustrations displayed in these regulations were painted by Glenn West for the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Coldwater Fish

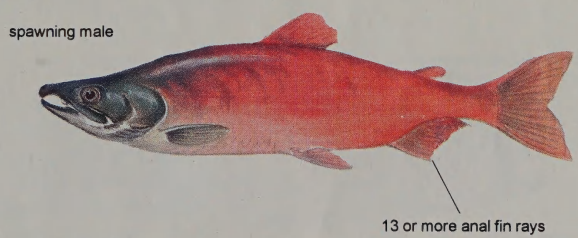
Bull Trout



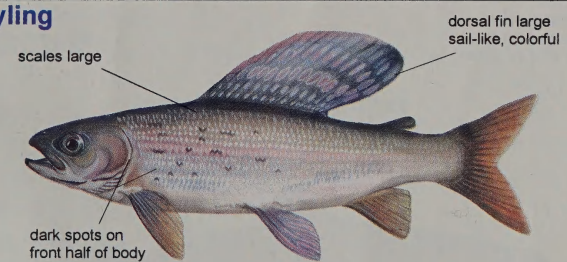
Kokanee



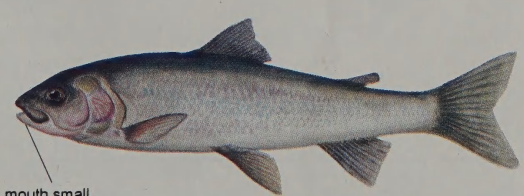
Kokanee



Grayling



Mountain Whitefish

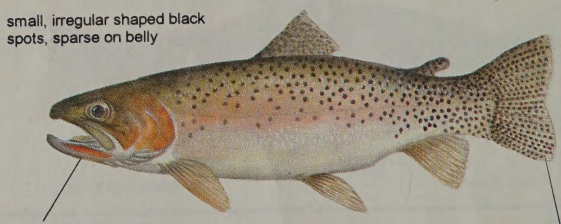


CUTTHROAT TROUT

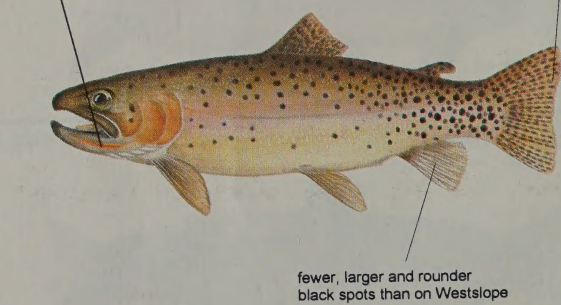
Cutthroat trout are the only members of the genus **Oncorhynchus** native to most of Montana. The number and range of both subspecies have been severely reduced over the years due to habitat destruction, competition, interbreeding with other species and over fishing.

Cutthroat trout can grow to a fairly large size (1-3 lbs.) and provide excellent fishing in good habitat if they are not overharvested. Because they take a hook so readily, cutthroat can be over fished more easily than any other western trout. If you fish anywhere cutthroat are found, but particularly in streams, we ask that you check the throat area of the fish you catch for red slashes. Letting those fish go should contribute to improve fishing. Enjoy the recreation these native Montanans can provide.

Westslope Cutthroat


small, irregular shaped black spots, sparse on belly
cutthroat slash — one on each side (weak on juveniles)
spots more dense toward rear of fish

Yellowstone Cutthroat



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YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Highlights of 1995 Fisheries Programs

Providing diverse angling opportunities is important to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). With that in mind, Montana continues to rely almost exclusively on wild, naturally reproducing trout to replenish its rivers and streams. In lakes and reservoirs where natural reproduction is not adequate, management objectives are accomplished with hatchery-reared fish.

FWP also continues to emphasize the preservation of native fish and habitat protection with special efforts aimed at habitat that has been damaged.

Among our many accomplishments during 1995 were the following:

Fisheries Management

- FWP and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department completed a plan for the cooperative management of paddlefish in the lower Yellowstone and Missouri rivers and associated reservoirs. The objective is to provide protection for paddlefish populations while allowing for an equitable sport harvest of the fish among anglers in the two states.
- With the support of anglers and FWP, the 1995 Legislature made it illegal to transport live fish from one body of water to another and for anglers to have live fish in their possession away from the body of water from which they were taken. This regulation does not apply in the Eastern Fishing District. The regulation was passed to help reduce illegal introductions of fish, which can severely impact fisheries management programs.

Research

- In December 1994, whirling disease was detected in the Madison River of southwestern Montana. In 1995, 15 additional bodies of water in the state were determined to harbor the disease. In May, 1995, Governor Marc Racicot appointed a 20-member task force to develop an action plan to address whirling disease in Montana. Vigorous testing to determine the extent of the disease and research to help find a way to slow its spread are under way. During 1995, the FWP Commission outlawed the use of sculpins or salmonid species as cut bait to help halt the spread of the disease.
- Radio transmitters were implanted in over 50 bull trout and other fish to monitor their movements in the Blackfoot and Clark Fork River drainages. This effort was initiated to determine distribution of the species, timing of migration, habitat preferences and other factors necessary to help promote the recovery of bull trout populations.
- FWP completed a survey on the Bighorn River to determine angler satisfaction and learn future management preferences.
- In an attempt to help recover the threatened stream-dwelling grayling and determine what stocking strategies will maximize survival following introduction, FWP biologists reintroduced grayling into the Gallatin and East Gallatin rivers.

Habitat Protection/Improvement

- FWP completed water leases on two tributaries of the Yellowstone River for the benefit of Yellowstone cutthroat trout and a tributary of the Jefferson River to aid spawning and survival of brown and rainbow trout. Another lease on Tin Cup Creek in the Bitterroot drainage was acquired to help maintain rainbow trout spawning habitat.
- FWP has initiated 67 stream restoration projects since the inception of the River Restoration Program in 1989. Forty-two projects have been completed. These projects enhance spawning habitat, improve riparian vegetation and bank cover, reduce loss of fish into irrigation diversions, provide fish passage to spawning grounds, restore essential habitats and naturally functioning stream channels or protect genetically pure native fish populations.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

- The 1995 Legislature created the Future Fisheries Improvement Program which expands efforts to restore and enhance habitats for wild fish populations in lakes, rivers and streams. A citizen review panel was appointed in July 1995 to rank projects and to recommend to the FWP Commission which projects should be funded. Project proposals will be considered for funding beginning in February 1996.

Species of Special Concern

- In the spring of 1995, the FWP Commission closed Hungry Horse Reservoir to the taking of bull trout to preserve dwindling populations of the species. It later also closed the mouths of four spawning tributaries because they are important staging areas during spawning migration.
- FWP increased its education efforts and enforcement patrols in areas inhabited by species of special concern, especially bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, grayling and paddlefish. The effort is intended to minimize unlawful and unintentional taking of these species.

Fish Stocking

- In 1994, the latest year for which complete fish stocking information is available, FWP fish hatcheries produced over 7 million salmonids for stocking in lakes and reservoirs, approximately 35 million walleye, 300,000 largemouth bass and hundreds of thousands of other warm water fish.
- The annual walleye egg-taking operation near Nelson Creek on Fort Peck Reservoir resulted in a record 76 million eggs being taken in 1995 by fisheries crews with the aid of local volunteers. The progeny from these eggs will provide enhanced walleye angling opportunities in waters across central and eastern Montana.
- Continuing work on the Washoe Park Hatchery at Anaconda resulted in the development of a new water supply system and construction of a state-of-the-art hatchery building.

Increased Opportunities

- A second annual Fishing Without Barriers day was sponsored by FWP and its Crossing the Barriers Committee on Flathead Lake in June 1995. Twenty-four anglers with disabilities caught 30 Lake Trout. The Montana Charter Boat Association provided seven boats free of charge.
- During 1994-95, a total of 1,200 students attended Youth Angler Education courses at 22 sites across the state. They received hands on experience in angling skills, aquatic ecology, water safety and ethics.
- State walleye records continued to be shattered by anglers on Fort Peck Reservoir during 1995. The largest "lunker" was a 16.3 pound walleye.
- During 1995, FWP acquired three new properties to be enjoyed by the angling public. FWP also completed site protection and improvement projects at 17 Fishing Access Sites.

Enforcement

- The Enforcement Division hired 11 new officers to fill nine vacancies and new field positions located in Helena and Wise River. These additional wardens have improved service to the public and protection of Montana's fisheries resources.
- Montana game wardens contacted in excess of 48,000 anglers in 1995 in an attempt to improve compliance with regulations and protect our fisheries resources.

The realization of the above was made possible by revenues from fishing and hunting license sales. Special thanks to Montana's anglers and hunters. More information on FWP accomplishments on a department-wide basis will be provided in our 1995 annual report, scheduled to be completed in late winter of 1996.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from certain Montana waters. Fish from some Montana waters contain levels of chemicals which may be harmful to young children, nursing mothers and childbearing women or persons frequently consuming fish.

Information listing consumption advice and additional details is available from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-3986.

RIVER ETIQUETTE

- Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that wouldn't cause congestion.
- Don't encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.
- Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river, fish for a while, then move on.
- Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.
- When possible, avoid using the streambed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

WHIRLING DISEASE

Montana's wild and native trout are among the nation's most precious natural resources. Whirling disease, a potentially fatal illness of trout and salmon, has been found in Montana. **We need your help to prevent its spread.**

The tiny parasite that cause the trout illness can survive within live fish, dead fish, and in water and riverbed mud. **It can even survive in dry mud.**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks urges anglers, boaters and others to follow these **DOs & DON'Ts:**

DO remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer and axles, waders, boots and fishing gear **before** departing the fishing access site or boat dock.

DO dry your boat and equipment between river trips.

DON'T transport fish from one body of water to another.

DON'T dispose of fish entrails, skeletal parts, or other by-products in any body of water.

DON'T collect or use minnows or sculpins for bait.

DON'T use parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait.

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks license agents, is required to conduct most recrea-

RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks license agents, is required to conduct most recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state lands. Pamphlets that provide information regarding the rules, regulations and restrictions governing these recreational activities on state lands are available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and license agents and offices of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

MONTANA STREAM ACCESS LAW

Under the Montana Stream Access Law, rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. Although Montana law gives recreationists the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

The success or failure of the law hinges on the behavior of landowners and recreationists. We emphasize the need for cooperation and mutual respect.

Recreationists are urged to obtain more detailed information from any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA TRESPASS LAW

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter or remain on private land by the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or by the failure of the landowner to post notice denying entry onto the land.

It is the responsibility of the recreationist to determine whether private lands are posted. If lands are posted, it is the recreationist's responsibility to obtain permission from landowners before recreating on these lands. Recreationists are urged to obtain more detailed information from any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY DAMS

USE RESTRICTIONS AT MONTANA POWER COMPANY DAMS

In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below all Montana Power Company (MPC) owned and operated dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark and areas of no boating, sailing, floating and swimming. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems. For specific closures see the current Montana Boating Regulations or call MPC's Hydro Hotline at 1-800-247-9131 (Montana only).

COMMISSION ADOPTED

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks receives federal aid. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the federal government prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or handicap. Anyone believing they have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or desiring further information, may write to: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620; or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 1996 fishing season. These regulations are valid March 1, 1996, through February 28, 1997. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on November 9, 1995.

These regulations as adopted herein are also proposed to remain in effect for the 1997 fishing season. They will be formally adopted, with possible changes, by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission in the fall of 1996. Any changes will be made available to the public on an addendum sheet available from all license agents and at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks' offices. Portions of the regulations in this booklet may be changed, or additions may be made, for the 1997 fishing season. In order to have a complete set of the current regulations and in order to remain in compliance with the law, anglers must obtain the fishing regulations addendum sheet.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License Requirements

A fishing license is a permit for the lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by Montana's fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee. There is no charge for this validation.

A conservation license is required of both residents and nonresidents before a fishing license may be purchased.

Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. The license year runs March 1 through February of the following year.

Resident

In order to apply for a Montana resident fishing license, one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Each resident 15 years of age and older must have a resident fishing license in order to fish. Residents under the age of 12 need no license to fish but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from respective institutions for patients at veteran's administration hospitals and for residents of state institutions other than the state penitentiary.

- **Resident Conservation License . . . . . $ 4.00**
  — Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish, and to hunt upland game birds, other than turkeys.
- **Resident Person With Disability Conservation License . . $ 4.00**
  — Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, may apply for an annual "Resident Person With Disability Conservation License" which authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds, other than turkeys.
- **Resident Fishing License $13.00**

- **Resident Sportsman's License $64.00**
  - — Includes a conservation, deer "A", elk and black bear license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds, other than turkeys.
- **Resident Paddlefish Tags . . . . . Two for $ 5.00**
  - — Limit of two.
  - — Required of all paddlefish anglers, regardless of age.

Nonresident Licensing

All nonresidents 15 years of age and older must have a fishing license to fish. No nonresident under the age of 15 years may fish in Montana without having obtained a fishing license unless the nonresident under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult.

A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

- **Nonresident Conservation License . . . . . $ 5.00**
- **Nonresident Season Fishing License $45.00**
- **Nonresident Two-Day Fishing License $10.00**
  - — Valid for two consecutive days.
- **Nonresident Paddlefish Tag . . . . . Two for $15.00**
  - — Limit of two.
  - — Required for all nonresident paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, even when accompanied by an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license.
- **Nonresident Deer Combination License $245.00**
  - — Available from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Helena Headquarters only. Includes a conservation and deer "A" license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds, other than turkeys. Quota of 6,000.
- **Nonresident Big Game Combination License $475.00**
  - — Available from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Helena Headquarters only. Includes a conservation, deer "A", and elk license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds, other than turkeys. Quota of 17,000.

State Park Entrance Fee — Resident & Nonresident

Montana state park use, including fishing from waters at a state park, requires an entrance fee. A state park passport vehicle sticker is available for $15 from any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office and most license agents. For the occasional user, a $3 per vehicle daily entrance charge may be paid at the site you are visiting.

Statewide Standard Fishing Regulations

Limits — Daily and Possession

- **Daily** limit shall mean the numbers of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. It is unlawful to take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations. "Legally taken" means caught and killed. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are not taken.
- **Possession** limit shall mean the number of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.
  - — Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.
  - — A person fishing on a water may posses only the limit allowed for that water.
  - — Where size limits apply and while a person is on the water and fishing, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, and fins attached. Only gills and entrails may be removed.
  - — Salmonids (trout, salmon and whitefish) may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification. For all non-salmonids, a minimum of one square inch of skin - other than the belly - must remain attached to each fillet. It is unlawful to transport dressed fish to a person's residence, unless those fish can be counted. If the catch is frozen prior to transportation, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted. Two fillets will be counted as one fish.
  - — It is illegal to can fish before taking them to a permanent residence. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or tents do not qualify as a permanent residence.

Seasons

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

Game Fish

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons, unless otherwise specified.

Fishing Methods

Hook and Line Limits

- Only a single line with up to two hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be hand-held or in immediate control.
- Two poles with up to two (2) hooks per pole, may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts.
- Where multiple lines are allowed, the total number of allowable lines includes hand-held lines, setlines, spears, or other units of fishing gear.
- A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.
- These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines

- Setlines may be used on some waters as specified under district regulations. Unless otherwise specified a setline must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.
- The owner's name and address must be attached to each unattended setline.
- Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Snagging

- Snagging of fish is unlawful at all times except paddlefish, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as specified under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. Snagging is a technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to imbed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. All game fish not legal for snagging that are incidentally snagged must be released immediately.

Nets and Traps

- Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
- In Central and Eastern District waters where use of live fish is allowed for bait, nongame species (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be taken in the following manner:
  - — with seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width, or
  - — with minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.
- Crayfish for personal consumption may be taken in traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.
- Hoop nets may be used in the Eastern Fishing District only. See page 42.

Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or any natural or man-made food, or any man-made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

Minnows and Other Bait

Live Fish

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by a permit issued by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- The taking and/or use of sculpins (genus Cottus) as fishing bait (also known as "bullheads") is prohibited on all waters in the state, because sculpin may transmit whirling disease.
- Live carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt may not be used for bait at any location in the state.
- Live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under Bait (Live) as listed in the Central (page 28) and Eastern (page 42) District regulations.
- Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession. Nongame species may be taken for bait only in waters where live fish are allowed as bait (see Fishing Methods, page 7).

Dead Fish

No portion of salmonids (trout, salmon, whitefish) except eggs may be used as bait. All other fish, or parts thereof, may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining and Sale of Bait Fish

- Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullhead (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201.-12.7.206. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license. Contact your regional Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office for a permit and list of waters open to commercial seining.
- Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.
- Commercial bait regulations are not valid on Indian reservation waters—for information contact local tribal officials.

Commercial Aquatic Invertebrate Collections
Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates such as leeches, crayfish, and aquatic insects for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office for information. Also see Crayfish and Mussels, page 10.

Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless shown otherwise under district regulations. District standard daily and possession limits for rivers and streams apply to irrigation canals and ditches.

Beaver Ponds

Impoundment's formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

Closed Waters

All waters operated by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams, and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons 12 years of age and older.

Children's Fishing Waters are:

- Fairground Pond (Helena)
- Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)
- Elks Club Pond (near Lewistown)

Indian Reservations

- Certain waters on Indian Reservations may have special rules. Tribal permits may be required. Specific information should be obtained from reservation headquarters.
- The State of Montana and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for fishing regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 752-5501 or the Tribes at 675-2700.

National Parks

Certain waters on National Parks may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the Park headquarters.

Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the refuge involved.

Ice Fishing

- Number of Rods/Lines
  - — Two (2) rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on all lakes, reservoirs, or ponds in the Western and Central Districts and six (6) rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on lakes, reservoirs, and ponds in the Eastern District. See Special Regulations for exceptions.
- Size of Hole
  - — The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches.
  - — There is no limit on the size of hole used for fishing with a spear or gig.

continued . . .

Ice Fishing, continued . . .

- Shelters
  - — The following special regulations apply to ice fishing shelters on the following waters:
    - Bearpaw Lake
    - Beaver Creek Reservoir
    - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
    - Deadmans Basin Reservoir
    - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
    - Georgetown Lake
    - Hauser Lake
    - Helena Valley Reservoir
    - Lake Frances
    - Lake Helena
  - — Shelter definition: Any hut or shelter constructed of any material except ice or snow.
  - — Shelter identification: Each shelter must be marked with the owner's name, address, and/or phone number, painted or permanently affixed to the shelter in legible letters not less than two (2) inches in height, of contrasting color to the background, and plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet.
  - — Inspection: Each shelter of closed type construction shall have a door readily opened from the outside for inspection by an officer when the shelter is occupied. The door shall not be latched from the inside.
  - — Use: It is prohibited for any person to use, fish from or occupy an ice fishing shelter if the shelter does not conform to the rules.
- Shelter removal:
  - — Daily removal is required on the following waters:
    - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
    - Georgetown Lake
    - Deadmans Basin
    - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
    - Fitzpatrick Lake
    - Helena Valley Reservoir
  - — On Hauser Lake and Lake Helena ice fishing shelters may not be set on the ice until after sunrise and must be removed from the area before sunset each day.
  - — Removal after season: The owner of an ice fishing shelter shall remove the shelter from the area and from public property before it becomes irretrievable over the ice.
  - — Waste and rubbish disposal: It is the responsibility of the owner and users of ice fishing shelters to keep the immediate area around the shelter free from rubbish and trash. Waste material must be removed when the angler leaves for the day.

Crayfish

- Crayfish may be taken for personal use with a net or screen not to exceed four (4) feet in length or width, by hook and line, or in traps not exceeding 18 inches in length and 10 inches in width or diameter. Valid fishing license required.
- The collection of crayfish for sale or commercial distribution is limited to fishing bait and requires a permit. Contact a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office for information.

Commercial Whitefish Fishing

- A permit is required to sell whitefish. Contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office for a permit and a list of waters open to commercial harvest of whitefish.

Mussels

- In accordance with ARM Sec. 12.2.501 it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells.

Check Stations

- Anglers and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if there are no fish or game to be checked.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

- The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. A copy of the Boating Laws and Rules is available from any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.
- Notice: When using any form of a raft, boat, or sailboat on Montana's waters, a personal flotation device (PFD) must be made available for all persons on board. The PFD must be the appropriate size, be in good working order and readily available to each person, and be U.S. Coast Guard approved. Boats 16 feet and longer must have an additional throwable Type IV PFD on board.
- All youth under the age of 12 must wear (securely fastened to their body) a PFD at all times when in a boat that is less than 26 feet and in motion.
- The following is a partial list of rules pertaining to boating and water safety; other waters may be closed as posted.
- To operate upon Montana waters:
  - — Sailboats 12 feet long and longer and all motor boats (gas and electric) must be properly licensed and numbered with registration carried on board.
  - — All boats must carry equipment as required by the Montana Boating Laws and Rules.
  - — Youth 12 years of age and under may not operate a motorboat with a motor greater than 10 horsepower unless an adult is on board.
  - — Unless an adult is on board, youth 13 and 14 years of age must possess a Montana motorboat operator's certificate or proof of completing an approved course in order to operate a motorboat with a motor greater than 10 horsepower.

Boating Closures

- In accordance with ARM Sec. 12.6.801 (1) The following waters/areas will be either closed as posted or marked by barrel booms to the use of all boats or other water craft except in case of rescue craft or plant maintenance work:

(a) area immediately above and below Canyon Ferry Dam in Lewis and Clark County;

(b) area immediately above Kerr Dam in Lake County;

(c) a portion of Brown's Lake near Ovando, Powell County, during the time period beginning April 1 and ending July 15.

- **All rivers and streams in the following counties east of the Continental Divide are closed to the use of all boats propelled by machinery or over 10 horsepower, except for official use.**

County	Exception
Beaverhead	
Broadwater	Missouri downriver from the Broadwater-Gallatin County line.
Gallatin	Missouri downriver from Headwaters State Park.
Jefferson	
Madison	
Park	Yellowstone downriver from Highway 89 Bridge, near mouth of Shields River
Silver Bow	

- **The following reservoirs and lakes of the state are closed to the use of all boats propelled by machinery over 10 horsepower, except for official use:**

Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill County
Carpenter (Tetrault) Lake	Lincoln County
South Sandstone Reservoir	Fallon County

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- **The following waters are limited to manually-operated boats and boats powered by electric motors, except for official use:**

Castle Rock Reservoir	Rosebud County
Crystal Lake	Fergus County
Gartside Reservoir	Richland County
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir	Lewis & Clark County
Lake Elmo	Yellowstone County

- **The following waters of the state are closed to all motor-propelled watercraft, except for official use:**

Western Fishing District:

Bearmouth rest area pond	Granite County
Bitterroot River and tributaries with some exceptions -- Contact Missoula FWP Headquarters for exceptions	Missoula and Ravalli Counties
Blackfoot River	Lewis & Clark, Missoula and Powell Counties
Frenchtown Pond	Missoula County
Harpers Lake	Missoula County
Lower Clark Fork River from St. Johns FAS to mouth of Fish Creek	Mineral County
Twin Lakes	Ravalli County

Central Fishing District:

Arapooish access area	Big Horn County
Big Hole River	Silver Bow, Madison, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead counties
Bighorn River	That portion of the Bighorn River from Afterbay Dam to the Big Horn Access area, Big Horn County
Bozeman Ponds	Gallatin County
Forest Lake	Meagher County
Park Lake	Lewis & Clark County
Missouri River	That portion of the Missouri River from the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge No. 119.4 at Broadwater Bay in Great Falls to Black Eagle and that portion of the Missouri River from the Warden Bridge on 10th Avenue South in Great Falls to the floater take-out facility constructed near Oddfellows Park at Broadwater Bay as posted, Cascade County
Smith River	Cascade County
Spring Meadow Lake	Lewis & Clark County

Eastern Fishing District:

Bearpaw Lake	Hill County

GENERAL REGULATIONS

It Is Unlawful

- To violate any of the regulations listed in this booklet.
- To transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters.
- To refuse to show one's license upon demand.
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand.
- To loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person.
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission regulations.
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted.
- To use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any stream where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish.
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide.
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food.

TRANSPORTING LIVE FISH

- It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: (1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; (2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and (3) within and along the boundaries of the eastern Montana fishing district.

NUMBERED TAG

- If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks of the:
  - — Tag number and color
  - — Date fish was caught
  - — Species of fish
  - — Length and weight (close as possible)
  - — Location of catch (river - lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
  - — Was the fish kept or released
  - — Name and address of angler

RELEASING FISH

To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible — do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing a hook.
- Remove the hook gently — do not squeeze the fish or put fingers in its gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

Fisherman's Log

If you fish regularly in Montana, help gather fishing information.

Write for the Fishing Log:

Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks
FWP Building,
MSU Campus
Bozeman, MT 59715-0323

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Information . . . New Options

The demand for more and faster information has led Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to experiment with a wide selection of information services and options designed to improve service.

Beginning in 1996, services will include telephone, fax and computer on-line assistance through free and fee-based information options.

1-900 Hotline
Our new 1-900-225-5397 information hotline — a pilot project FWP has designed in cooperation with a private vendor — will offer comprehensive detail to callers on a wide variety of recreation topics, from hunting opportunities to road conditions. The line will be operational Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Mountain Standard Time beginning April 15, 1996. A $1.50 per minute charge will be assessed and callers must be at least 18 years old.

On-Line Computer Bulletin Board
Our free computer on-line information center can be accessed via computer modem through the State of Montana's Bulletin Board System. By calling 1-800-962-1729 in Montana, or 1-406-444-5648 from out-of-state, customers can access the latest FWP news and leave messages with our System Operator.

Fax and Customer Service
Customers can send a fax to FWP at 406-444-4952. Customers can call 406-444-2535 for general information, and customers seeking nonresident hunting license information can call 406-444-2950.

In the future, FWP will continue to explore new and better ways to serve our customers' growing information needs, including the use of InterNet and World Wide Web on-line services.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Kalispell 752-5501
Missoula 542-5500
TDD (In Helena) 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes—Open entire year. Valid fishing license required.

Rivers and Streams—Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Some streams have extended whitefish and catch-and-release fishing for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May. See Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

Ice Fishing—All lakes and reservoirs in the Western Fishing District are open to use of two (2) attended lines with two (2) hooks per line when fishing through the ice. Valid fishing license required.

Bow and Arrow—All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.

Snagging—All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. Snagging of salmon is allowed in waters open to fishing from September 15 through December except as noted under Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

Spearing—Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish by spearing in most waters open to fishing (See Special Regulations). Valid fishing license required.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits. However, anglers may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — In Any Combination			
Brown trout Cutthroat trout Golden trout Lake trout Rainbow trout Grayling	5	5	Rivers & Streams: only 1 fish may exceed 14 inches Possession limit: Rivers & Streams - 5; Lakes - 10.

Wilderness Limits:
All waters in the South Fork Flathead River drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas unless otherwise specified under exceptions:

Limit A—in any Combination			
Cutthroat trout Rainbow trout Grayling	3	3	Rivers & Streams: No fish may exceed 12 inches

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Bull trout	All waters of the Western District except Swan Lake, are closed to the taking and/or the intentional fishing for bull trout. (Swan River and tributaries are closed to the taking of bull trout).		
Brook trout	20	20	
Bass	6	6	
Tiger muskellunge	1	1	30 inch minimum size
Northern pike	15	15	
Salmon	20	20	Possession limit is 40
Whitefish	100	100	Including fish taken for sale
Burbot (ling)	5	5	

It is unlawful to take or possess any sturgeon of the genus Acipenser (white sturgeon).

Bait

- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish in any waters of the Western Fishing District.
- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 11. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

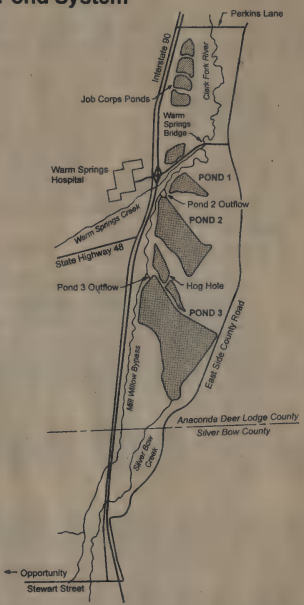
Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Abbot Lake near Bigfork
- Closed to spearing.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one (1) may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.

Alice Creek (Blackfoot River tributary)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Alvord Lake
- May 15 through June 30; one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.

Anaconda Settling Pond System



- All waters in the Wildlife Management Area upstream from Warm Springs Bridge.
  — catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Hog Hole open May 25 through June 30.
- Pond 3 spillway to Warm Springs Bridge.
  — Open entire year.
- Pond 3 open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from floating non-motorized craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed.
- All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30.
- Willow Creek from Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area boundary.
  — catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Ashley Creek downstream from Smith Lake
- Open entire year.

Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to source
- Closed entire year.

Ashley Lake
- Limit: 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Ashley Lake Inlet Tributaries
- Closed entire year.

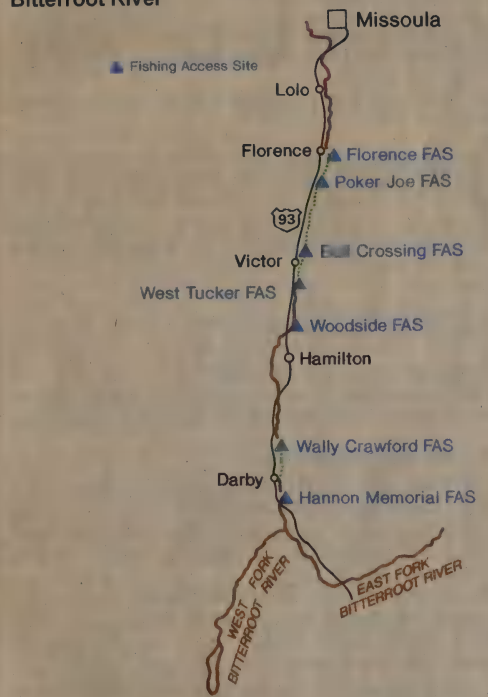
Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to source, including all reservoirs and tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Bear Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River)
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted from June 1 through August 30.

Beaver Creek (Blackfoot River tributary)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Big Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and all tributaries
- Closed entire year.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted from June 1 through August 30.

Bitterroot River



... **Special Limit Area** — Mainstem and East Fork to mouth of Martin Creek and West Fork upstream to Painted Rocks Reservoir.
- Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Limit: Three (3) rainbow or brown trout alone or in any combination. Only one (1) may exceed 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

... **Special Limit Area** — From Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge and one mile downstream from Darby to Como Bridge.
- Catch-and-release only for trout entire year.
- Artificial lures only except aquatic insects and maggots may also be used to catch whitefish from December 1 through the third Saturday in May.

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Buckhouse Bridge (ditches, canals and sloughs)

- Extended northern pike and whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blackfoot River

- Mainstem and all tributaries (except Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier).
  - — Limit A: Rainbow and brown trout, three (3) fish, none may exceed 12 inches. Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Mainstem only extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blanchard Lake near Whitefish

- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice and by persons submerged in the water.

Blue Sky Creek (Kootenai Drainage)

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Bootjack Lake (near Whitefish, T31N, R23W, S26)

- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum, artificial lures only.

Brenneman Slough

- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Church Slough (Flathead River)

- Open entire year.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one (1) may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.
- Closed to spearing.

Clarence Creek (Kootenai Drainage)

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Clark Fork River

- Warm Springs Bridge to Perkins Lane Bridge.
  - — Limit A: Five (5) trout under 12 inches or four (4) trout under 12 inches and one (1) over 20 inch es, artificial lures only, open entire year.
- Milltown Dam to mouth of Thompson River.
  - — Limit A: Five (5) trout, only one (1) may exceed 16 inches.
- Perkins Lane Bridge to mouth of Thompson River.
  - — Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River.
  - — Open entire year for northern pike with bait or lures.
- Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border.
  - — Open entire year. Lake limits apply to entire reach.
  - — Above Warm Springs Bridge — See the Anaconda Settling Pond System regulations, page 17.

Clearwater Drainage

- Upstream from Lake Inez fish barrier and all tributaries of the Clearwater River.
  - — Limit A: Rainbow and brown trout, three (3) fish, none may exceed 12 inches. Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.
- Downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier.
  - — Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and twenty (20) in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.

Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier

- Open entire year.

Coal Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Copper Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and bull trout downstream from the wilderness boundary (see Blackfoot River, page 19).

Cottonwood Creek (Blackfoot River tributary)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Donaldson Creek Drainage, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
- Closed entire year.

Echo Lake near Anaconda
- Open third Saturday in May through March 31.
- Limit: Five (5) trout (including brook trout).

Echo Lake near Bigfork
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one (1) may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.
- Closed to spearing, except open to spearing and gigging of nongame fish and northern pike through ice.

Elk Creek, tributary to Swan River
- Closed entire year.

Emily Springs, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit: Five (5) for all trout, including brook trout.

Fennon Slough (Flathead River)
- Open entire year.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one (1) may exceed 12 inches.

Fisher River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.

Flathead Indian Reservation
- Tribal fishing permit is necessary on Reservation waters.
- Check at Tribal Headquarters for specific information and regulations.

Flathead Lake
- Limit: Five (5) Kokanee salmon daily may be taken from the third Saturday in May through September 15.
- Limit: Five (5) bass, only two (2) over 15 inches and all bass from 12 inches to 15 inches must be released.
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout under 30 inches and one (1) over 36 inches.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.
- Limit: 50 yellow perch.

Flathead River
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow or one (1) of each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.
- From confluence of North and Middle Forks to mouth.
  - — Extended season for whitefish and lake trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only. All other species of trout must be released.
- Above Kerr Dam.
  - — Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Flathead Reservation boundary to mouth.
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Limit: Five (5) northern pike daily and in possession, 24 inch minimum.

Flint Creek
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes
- Closed entire year.

Foy Lake (near Kalispell)
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily.

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply, Granite County)
- Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage, tributary to Lake Mary Ronan
- Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake
- Lake open third Saturday in May through March 31 except:
  - — The south and east shoreline is closed to fishing from the shore or within 100 yards of the shore from April 1 to July 1. The closed area extends from a point 200 yards west of the Denton's Point

continued . . .

Georgetown Lake, continued . . .

Marina, easterly and northerly along the shore including Stuart Mill Bay in its entirety, to a point 200 yards north of the mouth of the North Fork Flint Creek.

— Tributaries to Georgetown Lake (North Fork Flint Creek, Stuart Mill Creek, Hardtla Creek and Emily Springs) open July 1 through November 30.

- No daily or possession limit for salmon.
- Limit: Five (5) for all trout, including brook trout.
- Closed to snagging.
- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish.

Goat Creek (Swan River tributary)

- Closed entire year.

Granite Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Hardtla Creek tributary to Georgetown Lake

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit: Five (5) for all trout, including brook trout.

Haskill Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source

- Closed entire year.

Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake

- Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake near Ferndale

- Closed to spearing.
- Limit: Five (5) bass under 12 inches or four (4) bass under 12 inches and one (1) over 16 inches.

Hungry Horse Reservoir

- Wilderness Limits apply: See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 16.

Hungry Horse Reservoir Tributaries

- Wilderness Limits apply: See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 16.

Job Corps Ponds (E 1/2 of S7, T5N, R9W Deer Lodge County)

- All ponds open August 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Keeler Creek (Kootenai Drainage)

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Kootenai River (also see Libby Dam)

- Open entire year, except Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge (Fisher River) is closed to fishing March 15 to third Saturday in May.
- Libby Dam to Kootenai Falls.

— Three (3) trout under 13 inches and one (1) over 18 inches.

Lake Alva

- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Blaine near Kalispell

- Closed to spearing.

Lake Inez

- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Koocanusa

- Closed to burbot (ling) fishing January 15 through February 28.

Lake Mary Ronan

- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.

— Third Saturday in May through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.

- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3am.
- Closed to salmon snagging.
- Closed to spearing.

Landers Fork

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout downstream from the wilderness boundary (see Blackfoot River, page 19).

Libby Creek

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Libby Dam (also see Kootenai River)

- Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson Bridge as posted.
- Structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from spillway.

— Closed entire year.

Lion Creek tributary to Swan River
- Closed entire year.

Lion Lake near Hungry Horse
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily.

Little Bitterroot Lake
- Limit A: Only one (1) over 22 inches.

Little Blackfoot River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Long Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Loon Lake (Highway 2 West)
- Closed to spearing.

Loon Lake near Ferndale
- Closed to spearing.

Lower Stillwater Lake
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 Lake trout under 30 inches and one (1) over 36 inches.
- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Only one (1) over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.
- Closed to spearing.

McGregor Lake near Marion
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily.

Medicine Lake near Philipsburg
- Open July 1 through April.

Medicine Lake Tributaries
- Open July 1 through November 30.

Metcalf Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, size must exceed 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Middle Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams within the wilderness)
- Wilderness Limits apply: See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 16.

Middle Fork Flathead River (non-wilderness portion)
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.
- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the ordinary high water mark on the Park side of the river.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Middle Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Only one (1) over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.
- Closed to spearing.

Monture Creek
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout downstream from the wilderness boundary (see Blackfoot River, page 19).

Morrison Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Murphy Lake near Fortine
- Closed to spearing.

Nevada Creek (Blackfoot River tributary)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

No Tellum Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: Three (3) trout under 12 inches; one (1) over 22 inches, artificial lures only.

North Fork Blackfoot River
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout downstream from the wilderness boundary (see Blackfoot River, page 19).

North Fork Flathead River
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) of each, only one (1) over 14 inches and 15 lake trout.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.
- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the middle of the river.

North Fork Flint Creek, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit: Five (5) for all trout, including brook trout.

Noxon Rapids Reservoir
- May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.

O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth mile upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

O'Brien Creek (Kootenai River)
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted from June 1 through August 30.

Peterson Lake near Bigfork
- Closed to spearing.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one (1) may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.

Placid Creek, tributary to Placid Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Placid Lake and tributaries
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Prospect Creek (Clark Fork River)
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted from June 1 through August 30.

Quartz Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Rattlesnake Creek
- Upstream from mouth of Beeskove Creek
  — Open entire year. Catch-and-release with artificial lures only.
- Rattlesnake Creek and tributaries form Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to mouth of Beeskove Creek.
  — Closed entire year.

Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of West Fork Rock Creek
- Artificial lures only except anglers 14 years and younger may use bait.
- Limit A: Three (3) trout daily under 12 inches or two (2) trout under 12 inches and one (1) over 20 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Closed to fishing from boats July 1 through November 30.

Rogers Lake spawning inlet
- Closed entire year.

Salmon Lake and tributaries
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession, are allowed.

Seeley Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession, are allowed.

South Fork Flathead Drainage (all waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam including Hungry Horse Reservoir)
- Wilderness Limits apply: See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 16.

South Fork Flathead River
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Upstream from Hungry Horse Dam
  - — Wilderness Limits apply: See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 16.
  - — From Meadow Creek bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge.
    - — Artificial lures only.
    - — Limit A: cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Downstream from Hungry Horse Dam.
  - — Dam to "Devils Elbow" closed entire year as posted.
  - — Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or rainbow trout or one (1) of each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Squeezer Creek (Swan River Tributary)
- Closed entire year.

Stahl Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Stillwater River from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake
- Open entire year.

Stillwater River and all tributaries
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or rainbow trout or one (1) of each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Stuart Mill Creek, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit: Five (5) for all trout, including brook trout.

Swan Lake
- Limit: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.
- Closed to spearing.
- The daily and possession limit for bull trout is one (1) fish. An angler must either release or kill immediately all bull trout caught. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout.

Swan River
- Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake.
  - — Limit A: Catch-and-release for rainbow and cutthroat trout, artificial lures only.
- From Swan Lake to Flathead Lake.
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Flathead Lake limits and seasons apply.

Tally Lake
- Limit: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Tetrault Lake (near Eureka)
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily.

Thompson River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Tobacco River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek
- Closed entire year.

Triangle Pond (near Noxon)
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily.

Upper Stillwater Lake
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout under 30 inches and one (1) over 36 inches.
- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Only one (1) trout over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: one (1) bass daily and in possession, 22 inch minimum.
- Closed to spearing.

Upsata Lake
- Catch-and-release only for bass.

West Fork Quartz Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Whale Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries downstream from Whale Creek Falls
- Closed entire year.

Whitefish Lake
- Closed entire year to snagging of salmon. Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or two (2) rainbow trout or one (1) each, only one (1) over 14 inches, and 15 lake trout under 30 inches, and one over 30 inches.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State Highway 40 bridge
- Open entire year.

Wigwam River (Kootenai Drainage)
- Catch-and-release only for all trout, artificial lures only.

Wildlife Management Ponds
- See "Job Corps Ponds".

Willow Creek (near Anaconda Settling Ponds)
- From Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area — Catch-and-release only; artificial lures only.

Woods Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, size must exceed 22 inches, artificial lures only.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana lying East of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St Marys Drainages) and waters lying West of the following described boundary:

Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, then east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, then east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, then south on said street to North bank of Missouri River, then east along high water mark of the Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, then across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, then easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, then northeasterly along U.S. highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, then south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, then west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Great Falls 454-5840
Bozeman 994-4042
Billings 247-2940
TDD (In Helena) . . 444-1200
Telephone device for the deaf)

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes — Open entire year.

Rivers and Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Setlines — Anglers may use setlines in those waters open to setline fishing as specified under Special Regulations. Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address. Valid fishing license required.

Hook and Line Limits — Two poles with up to two (2) hooks per pole may be used on lakes and reservoirs in Central and Eastern Fishing Districts.

Bow and Arrow — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.

Snagging — All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. Valid fishing license required.

Spearing — Persons swimming or submerged may take non-game fish by spearing in most waters open to fishing (note District Special Regulations). Valid fishing license required.

Ice Fishing — All lakes-reservoirs in the Central District are open to use of two attended lines with two hooks per line when fishing through the ice. More than two lines are permitted on some waters — see Special Regulations.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits. However, anglers may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — in any Combination			
Brown trout Cutthroat trout * Golden trout Lake trout Rainbow trout Grayling *	5	5	Rivers & Streams: only 1 fish may exceed 18 inches. Possession limit: Rivers & Streams - 5; Lakes - 10

* Restrictions — Grayling and cutthroat trout taken in rivers and streams in the Missouri River drainage (above the PN Bridge, State Highway 236 Northwest of Winifred), in the mainstem of the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings and in all rivers and streams of the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from Yellowstone National Park to Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston) must be released unless otherwise noted under the Special Regulation Waters — 45 exceptions.

Wilderness Limits:
All waters east of the Continental Divide within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas unless otherwise specified under exceptions.

Limit A — in any Combination			
Cutthroat Rainbow trout	3	3	Rivers & Streams: No fish may exceed 12 inches and all cutthroat trout catch-and-release only.
Grayling	Catch-and-Release Only		

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Brook trout	20	20	
Bass	5	5	
Burbot (ling)	10	10	
Catfish	20	20	
Sauger/Walleye	5	5	In any combination
Northern Pike	10	10	
Tiger Muskellunge	1	1	30-inch minimum size
Salmon	10	10	
Shovelnose Sturgeon	5	5	
Whitefish	100	100	Including fish taken for sale

The maximum length sturgeon (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 40 inches. It is unlawful to take or possess a Pallid Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) of any size.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported to or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- Live nongame fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait only in the following waters:
  - — Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.
  - — Bighorn River — Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area.
  - — Clarks Fork Yellowstone River — downstream from bridge at Bridger.
  - — Marias River.
  - — Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn including all streams and drainage canals.
  - — Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except a section of the Bighorn River).

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 11. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Lakes
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout daily within the Beartooth Wilderness boundary.

Alder Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds mouth to Virginia City
- Open entire year.

Antelope Butte Lake (see Ostle Reservoir)

Armstrong Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Artificial flies and lures only.
- Catch-and-release only.

Arod Lakes (see Eyraud Lakes)

Axolotl Lakes
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Catch-and-release only for grayling.

Bad Canyon Creek
- Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.

Badger Creek Drainage near Heart Butte, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches; all cutthroat trout must be released.

Beaver Creek (Canyon Ferry tributary)
- From mouth to U.S. Highway 12, open June 15 through September 30.
- Stream above U.S. Highway 12, open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Beaver Creek Ponds (R3E, T11S, S21 — Madison River Drainage)
- All ponds north and south of Highway 287 adjacent to Beaver Creek.
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Catch-and-release only. Artificial lures only.

Beaverhead River
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only one (1) over 18 inches and only one (1) rainbow trout.
- Clark Canyon Dam to Pipe Organ Bridge.
  — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Downstream from Pipe Organ Bridge.
  — Open entire year.

Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville
- Open entire year.

Big Hole River

Special Regulations — Seasons
- Tributaries (only) upstream of Divide Dam open entire year for brook trout.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only, except Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge is closed to all fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Special Limits
- Dickie Bridge to Divide Dam.
  — Artifical lures only.
- Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge.
  — Limit A: Four (4) trout limit, three (3) fish under 13 inches and one (1) over 22 inches, artificial lures only.
- Entire river and tributaries, catch-and-release only for grayling.

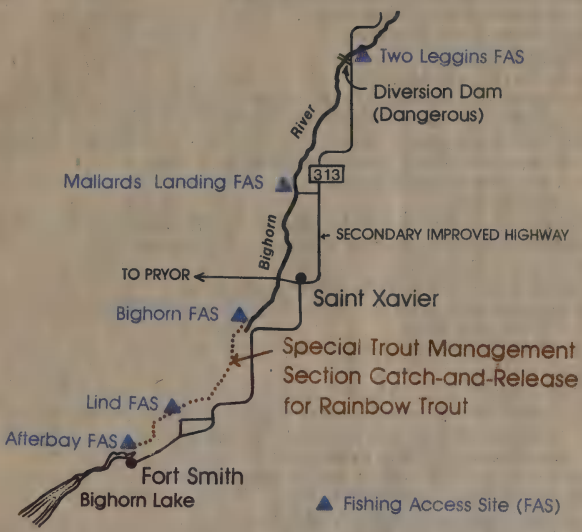
Big Lake Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Big Sheep Creek (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Big Spring Creek (Lewistown)
- Open entire year.

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Limit: Six (6) walleye, sauger and bass in any combination.
- Limit: Six (6) catfish.
- Up to six (6) attended lines, with one (1) hook per line allowed through the ice only.

Bighorn River



Exceptions
- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area.
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Limit A: Five (5) trout only one (1) over 18 inches and only one (1) may be a rainbow trout.
- Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access Area.
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Artificial lures only.
  - — Limit A: Five (5) trout only one (1) may be over 18 inches.
  - — Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.

Birch Creek (Big Hole River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Black Sands Spring Creek (tributary to South Fork Madison River)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Blacktail Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Bluewater Creek
- Open entire year.

Boulder River near Big Timber
- Entire drainage (including tributaries).
  - — Open entire year.
- Limit A: Two (2) trout, only one (1) may be over 13 inches.
- Natural Bridge to 2 Mile Bridge.
  - — Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout, artificial lures only.

Boulder River near Cardwell, mouth to bridge four airline miles upstream in T2N R3W S24
- Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Brimstone Creek (tributary to Hidden Lake, Madison Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Buffalo Creek (Fork of Slough Creek)
- Limit: Three (3) trout, none over 12 inches.

Bull Creek (Big Hole Drainage near Jackson)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Bynum Reservoir
- Six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.

Canyon Creek (Big Hole River Drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Canyon Ferry Dam Structure
- Closed as posted.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Setline fishing allowed through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.
- The following areas of Canyon Ferry Reservoir (as posted) are closed to fishing from March 1 up to the third Saturday in May:
  - — Cave Bay at Kim's Marina
  - — Magpie Bay
- Tributaries to Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Confederate, Beaver and Magpie Creeks) open June 15 through September 30.

Clark Canyon Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Springs entering reservoir at South end, near Red Rock River.
  - — Closed as posted.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River
- Open entire year.
- Downstream from bridge at Bridger.
  - — Setline fishing allowed entire year with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.

Cliff Lake (Madison River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Collar Gulch (near Lewistown)
- Closed to the harvest of cutthroat trout.

Confederate Gulch Creek from mouth to Highway 284
- From mouth to Highway 284, open June 15 through September 30.
- Stream above Highway 284, open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Crooked Creek
- Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool, Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only.
- Limit: Four (4) brook trout under 12 inches and one (1) over 18 inches.

Cut Bank Creek downstream from Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2
- Open entire year.

Dailey Lake
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Deadman's Basin Reservoir
- Salmon snagging allowed through ice only. The snagging limit is 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout.

Dearborn River downstream from Highway 434 Bridge
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release only for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Deep Creek near Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Deep Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary)
- From mouth to the North Fork of Deep Creek, open June 15 through September 30.
- Stream above the mouth of the North Fork of Deep Creek, open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Dickens Lake (Sun River Game Range)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Diversion Lake (Sun River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Dry Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary)
- From mouth to Flynn Lane, open June 15 through September 30.
- Stream above Flynn Lane, open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Duck Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

East Boulder River
- See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Boulder River
- See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Hyalite Creek
- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

East Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

East Gallatin River downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
- Open entire year.

East Rosebud Creek
- See Stillwater River.

Elks Club Pond - Lewistown
- Open only to fishing for persons under 12 years of age. See Children's Fishing Waters on page 9.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, only two (2) may be lake trout.

Ennis Lake
- All grayling caught must be released.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes
- Six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice.
- Spearing or gigging northern pike and nongame fish open through the ice only.

Fairground Pond - Helena
- Children's fishing water, see page 9.

Ferguson Lake (T1N, R12W, S31, Bighole River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Fishtail Creek
- See Stillwater River.

Foolhen Lake (T1N, R12W, S29, Bighole River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Gallatin River
- Open entire year.
- Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River.
  - — Closed to fishing from boats.

Gibson Reservoir
- Limit: Five (5) trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.
  - — This limit applies from Gibson Dam upstream to the point where the North and South Forks of the Sun River converge, regardless of reservoir levels.

Goose Lake (Madison County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Governor Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Grayling Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Half Moon Creek (near Lewistown)
- Closed to the harvest of cutthroat trout.

Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir, Madison County
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession, only one (1) over 18 inches.

continued . . .

Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir, Madison County, continued

- Willow Creek arm, as posted.
  — Open third Saturday in May through February.
- Tributaries to Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (North and South Willow Creeks and Nor wegian Creek, near Harrison from Highway 287 Bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir).
  — Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted

- Closed entire year.

Hauser Lake (includes Canyon Ferry tailwater)

- Limit: Five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, daily. Ten (10) trout and salmon in any combination, possession.
- Five (5) walleye, only one (1) may exceed 20 inches.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3AM.
- Setline fishing allowed through ice only, with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Haypress Lakes (Madison County)

- Lower Lake — Limit A: Three (3) trout.
- Middle Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Upper Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Hebgen Reservoir

- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Tributaries to Hebgen Reservoir (Cougar, Duck, Grayling, Red Canyon, Rumbaugh, South Fork Madison, Trapper and Watkins Creeks) open June 15 through November 30.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

- Open for salmon snagging September 1 through October 31 when the limit shall be 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Open to setline fishing through the ice only with up to three (3) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Hidden Lake (Madison County)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Hidden Lake (Our Lake, Teton County)

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

Holter Reservoir

- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout and salmon in any combination daily except all brown trout must be released. Ten (10) trout and salmon in any combination, possession.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3AM.
- Walleye: Three (3) under 18 inches and one (1) over 28 inches. All walleye between 18 and 28 inches must be released.
- All waters between Holter Dam and Hauser Dam are considered Holter Reservoir (lake) for the purpose of walleye regulations.
- Setline fishing through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Howell Creek (Big Hole Drainage near Wisdom)

- Open entire year for brook trout.

Hyalite Creek

- See Middle Creek, East Fork Hyalite Creek, and West Fork Hyalite Creek.

Hyalite Reservoir

- Limit A: Five (5) fish, daily and in possession, only one (1) may be a grayling.
- Tributaries to Hyalite Reservoir (East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek) open third Saturday in July through November 30.

Indian Creek, near Sheridan from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted

- Closed entire year.

Intake Reservoir, Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply

- Closed entire year.

Jacobson Creek (Big Hole River drainage)

- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Jefferson River

- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Five (5) brown trout with only one (1) over 18 inches.
- Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.

Klyo Lake (Pondera County)

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Lake Agnes (near Melrose)
- Limit: Ten (10) grayling daily.

Lake Francis
- Around water supply outlet as posted.
  — Closed entire year.
- Except portion closed as posted.
  — Six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
  — Spearing or gigging northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish open throu gh ice only.

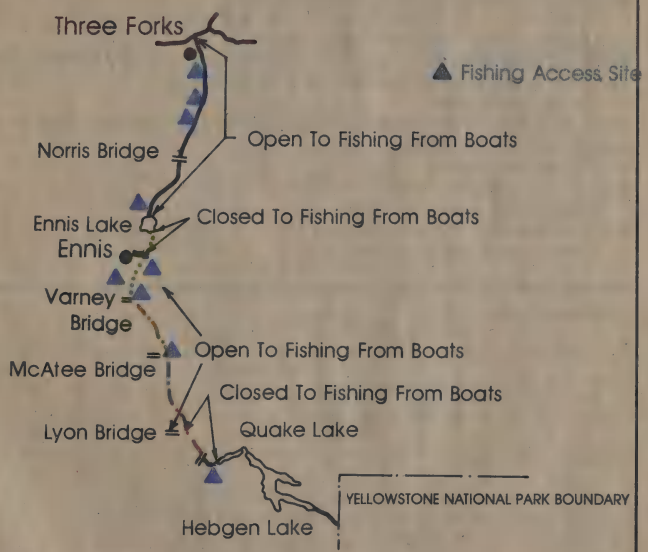
Lake Helena
- Open to setline fishing through ice with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Lightning Creek (Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness)
- Open August 1 through November 30.

Little Prickly Pear Creek (downstream from Interstate Bridge near Sieben, T13N, R4 W, S4)
- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.
- Upstream from the Interstate Bridge.
  — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Lyman Creek, near Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
- Closed entire year.

Madison River



Seasons and Limits
- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Lake.
  — Open Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30.
  — All rainbow trout must be released. All other trout species, Standard limits apply.
- Hebgen Lake to Quake Lake.
  — Open entire year.
  — Standard limits apply.
- Quake Lake to McAtee Bridge.
  — Open third Saturday in May through end of February.
- McAtee Bridge to Ennis Bridge.
  — Open entire year.
- Quake Lake outlet to Varney Bridge.
  — Artificial lures only.
  — Catch-and-release for trout.

continued . . .

Madison River, continued

Refer to map on page 34.

- Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake.
  - — Limit: Five (5) brown trout daily, only one (1) may exceed 18 inches.
  - — All rainbow trout must be released.
- Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake.
  - — Open third Saturday in May through end of February.
- Ennis Dam to Mouth
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Standard limits apply.

Boating Restrictions

- Quake Lake Outlet to Lyon Bridge.
  - — Closed to fishing from boats.
- Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake.
  - — Closed to fishing from boats.

– **Note:** Since whirling disease is present in the Madison River, fishing regulations may change during this two-year period.

Magpie Creek
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Marias River
- Open entire year including setline fishing with up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Martinsdale Reservoir
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only.
- Limit A: One (1) rainbow trout over 20 inches in length.

Middle Creek (Hyalite Creek), near Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Midvale Creek from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to park boundary
- Closed entire year.

Mill Creek near Sheridan
- Open entire year.

Miner Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Missouri River

continued . . .

Missouri River, continued . . .

Refer to map on page 35

- Downstream from Three Forks.
  — Open entire year.
- Portions of Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir are closed from March 1 through June 15 as posted.
- Toston Dam structure as posted.
  — Closed entire year.
- Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry.
  — Limit: Five (5) trout only one (1) exceeding 18 inches. All brown trout between 18 and 24 inches must be released.
- Just below Canyon Ferry Dam as posted.
  — Closed entire year; Hauser Lake limits apply in Canyon Ferry tailwater area.
- Waters from Hauser Dam downstream approximately 4.6 miles to American Bar Gulch (T12N, R3W, S11) are considered Missouri River for the purpose of fishing regulations.
- Hauser Dam downstream to Holter Dam.
  — Catch-and-release only for brown trout.
- Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam.
  — Closed entire year.
- Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge.
  — Limit: Five (5) rainbow trout daily, only one (1) may exceed 18 inches and one (1) brown trout daily, 22 inch minimum.
- Between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek.
  — Open to spear fishing for whitefish with rubber or spring-propelled spears by person swim ming or submerged. Limit: Five (5) whitefish daily.

Musselshell River (downstream from confluence of North and South Forks)
- Open entire year.

Nelson Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only, artificial lures only.

Newlan Creek Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

North Fork Big Hole River
- Open entire year for whitefish and brook trout.

North Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Fork Sun River and tributaries, upstream from Gibson Reservoir
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only one (1) over 12 inches. Limit A includes cutthroat trout.
- This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South Forks of the Sun River converge, regardless of reservoir level.

North Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Willow Creek, near Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Norwegian Creek
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

O'Brien Creek above Neihart public water intake
- Closed entire year.

O'Dell Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Ostle Reservoir (Antelope Butte Lake, Teton County)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Otter Lake, Madison County
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Our Lake (See Hidden Lake, Teton County)

Pattengail Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Piney Creek
- Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.

Pintler Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Pishkun Reservoir
- Six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open for snagging of salmon September 1 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.
- Spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Plimpton Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Poindexter Slough
- Open entire year.
- From December 1 to third Saturday in May, artificial lures only, catch-and-release only.

Priest Butte Lake
- Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through February.

Quake Lake
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Rat Lake (T5S, R4E, S12, Gallatin River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Unnamed tributary to the lake is closed entire year as posted.

Rattlesnake Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Rattlesnake Creek, near Dillon from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
- Closed entire year.

Red Canyon Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Red Lodge Creek downstream from Cooney Dam
- Open entire year.

Red Rock Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Renshaw Lake
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

Rock Creek, tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River
- Open entire year.

Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam
- Open entire year.

Ruby River drainage above Ruby Dam
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Rumbaugh Creek (tributary to Hebgen Lake)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Sage Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Sawtooth Lake (T4S, R12W, S36, Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Limit: One (1) golden trout.

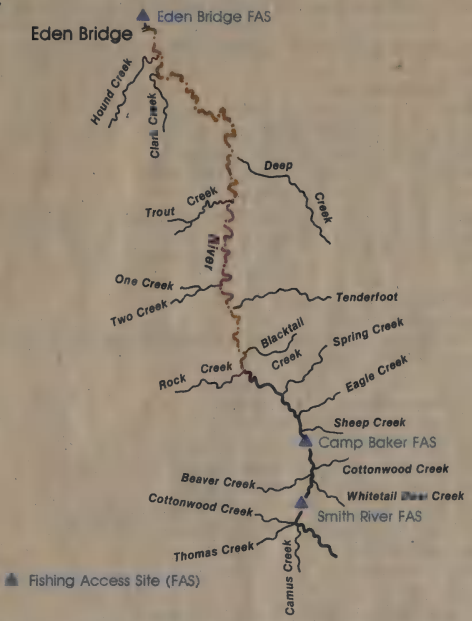
Scott Lake (T5S, R11W, S30, Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Shields River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.

Silver Creek, Marysville
- Catch-and-release fishing from Gold Sil Mine as posted to Green Meadow Drive.
- Downstream from I-15 Bridge near Helena.
  - — Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Smith Lake (Madison River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Smith River



Exceptions

- Downstream from confluence of North and South Forks.
  — Open entire year.

... **Special Limit Area**

- From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge.
  — Artificial lures only. Limit A: Three (3) fish under 13 inches and one (1) over 22 inches.
- Children under the age of 12 may fish with bait.
- Aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures may be used December 1 through third Saturday in May.

Floating on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge is limited to 9 groups per day. Mandatory registration, floaters fee and other regulations apply. A drawing for launch dates is held in February with remaining launches filled on a first come basis. Contact the Great Falls FWP office at (406) 454-5840 for more information.

South Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

South Fork Madison River (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

South Fork Sun River and tributaries, upstream from Gibson Reservoir

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only one (1) over 12 inches. Limit A includes cutthroat trout.
- This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South Forks of the Sun River converge, regardless of reservoir level.

South Fork Two Medicine River Drainage, within National Forest

- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

Sourdough Creek

- See Bozeman Creek.

South Willow Creek, near Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Split Rock Lake
- Six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Spearing or gigging for northern pike, and nongame fish through ice only.

Spring Meadow Lake
- Closed to motor propelled water craft.
- Open to fishing by hook and line only.
- Limit: Five (5) trout; one (1) bass.

Squaw Creek (Big Hole River Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Stillwater River (entire drainage - including tributaries)
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Two (2) trout, only one (1) over 13 inches.

Sun River
- Downstream from Gibson Dam.
- Open entire year.

Sunny Slope Canal downstream from Pishkun Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.
- Closed to the harvest of grayling.

Swamp Creek (Big Hole drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Swazee Lake (Sun River Game Range)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tahepia Lake (Wise River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

Teton River downstream from Highway 89 bridge
- Open entire year.

Toston Dam structure as posted
- Closed entire year.

Trail Creek (Beaverhead River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Trapper Creek (Big Hole River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Trapper Creek (tributary of Hebgen Lake)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Tunnel Lake (Teton County)
- Limit A may include only one (1) grayling.

Twin Lakes (Upper Big Hole River drainage)
- Limit A: Only two (2) may be lake trout.

Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)
- Children's fishing water, see page 9.

Wade Lake (Madison County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.
- Open entire year. Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted.

Warm Springs Creek (Lewistown)
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout.

Warm Springs Creek (Upper Missouri River drainage)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Watkins Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Waukena Lake (Big Hole Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout daily and in possession.

West Boulder River
- See Boulder River near Big Timber.

West Fork Hyalite Creek
- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

West Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

West Fork Rock Creek from Red Lodge water intake 1,000 feet upstream
- Closed entire year.

West Fork Stillwater River
- See Stillwater River.

West Rosebud Creek
- See Stillwater River.

Willow Creek and tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to source
- Closed entire year.

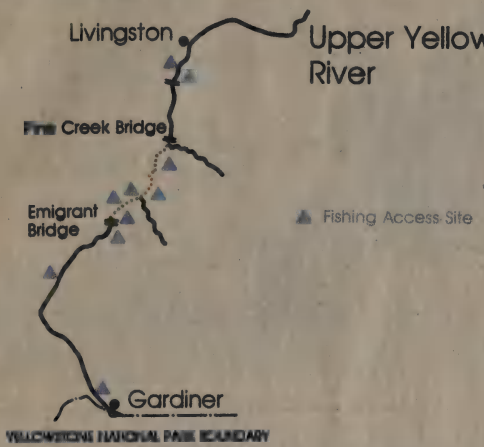
Willow Creek (Big Hole River drainage)
- Limit A includes cutthroat trout.

Willow Creek Reservoir (Madison County)
- See Harrison Reservoir.

Wise River (Big Hole River drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Wyman Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Yellowstone River



Seasons and Limits

- In the mainstem of the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings and in all rivers and streams of the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from Yellowstone National Park to Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston).
  - — Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.
- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Emigrant Bridge and Pine Creek Bridge to I-90 Bridge at Billings:
  - — Open entire year.
  - — Limit A: Five (5) trout only one (1) can exceed 18 inches.
- Mouth of Clarks Fork to I-90 Bridge at Billings.
  - — Open entire year to sport fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.
  - — Live fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait in streams and ditches of the Yellowstone drainage, except for a section of the Bighorn River.

... Special Limit Area
- Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge.
  - — Artificial lures only except that aquatic insects and maggots may be used as bait for whitefish between December 1 and the third Saturday in May.
  - — Limit A: Brown and rainbow trout: Five (5) fish limit, four (4) may be under 13 inches and one (1) fish over 22 inches.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying East of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters.

Great Falls	454-5840
Glasgow	228-9347
Billings	247-2940
Miles City	232-4365
TDD (In Helena)	444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)	

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year.

Hook and Line Limits — Two poles with up to two (2) hooks per pole may be used on lakes and reservoirs in Central and Eastern Fishing Districts.

Setlines — All lakes open to fishing are open to setline fishing through the ice only, except as specified under special regulations. Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices. Valid fishing license required.

All streams in Yellowstone and Little Missouri River Drainages are open the entire year to setlines.

Anglers may use up to six (6) setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in those waters open to setline fishing except as specified under special regulations.

Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

Bow and Arrow — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of paddlefish and nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.

Snagging — All waters open to angling are open to snagging of paddlefish. Snagging of chinook salmon is allowed on Fort Peck Reservoir from October 1 through November 30. All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish except the Missouri River and portions of the Yellowstone River, as specified under Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

Spearing — In all waters open to fishing nongame fish and burbot (ling) may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. Valid fishing license required.

Spears or gigs may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits unless listed under special regulations. However, anglers may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — in Any Combination			
Grayling, Salmon, All trout except Lake trout	10	5	Possession limit is 10
Lake trout	3	3	
Burbot (ling)	10	10	
Catfish	20	20	
Crappie	15	15	Possession limit is 30
Sauger/Walleye	5	5	in any combination; possession limit is 10
Shovelnose Sturgeon	5	5	
Northern Pike	5	5	
Tiger Muskellunge	1	1	30-inch minimum size
Bass	5	5	
Paddlefish	One (1) fish season limit for Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required. Two (2) fish season limit for Missouri River upstream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required.		

There is no limit on whitefish, cisco, and nongame fish. The maximum length sturgeon (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 40 inches. It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) of any size.

Hoop Nets

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- A permit is required.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- Permit applications and rules are available in the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices in Glasgow and Miles City.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

continued . . .

Bait, continued . . .

- Live nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used in all streams and rivers of the Eastern District except:
  - — Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
  - — Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
  - — Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in the Bears Paw Mountains, and Big Sandy Creek upstream from Highway 87 bridge.
- Live nongame fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait in the following ponds, lakes, reservoirs and impoundments only:
  - — Bainville Railroad Ponds, Roosevelt County
  - — Baker Lake, Fallon County
  - — Box Elder Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Buxbaum West Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
  - — Cole Ponds, Phillips County
  - — Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County
  - — Dry Fork Reservoir (Schwarz Reservoir), Blaine County
  - — Engstrom Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Ester Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Flat Lake, McCone County
  - — Fort Peck Reservoir
  - — Frenchman Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Gartside Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Johnson's Reservoir
  - — Kammerzell Reservoir, Liberty County
  - — Killenbeck Reservoir, Daniels County
  - — Kuester Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Lame Steer Reservoir, Wibaux County
  - — Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Dawson County
  - — Lindsay Reservoir, Dawson County
  - — Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Lone Tree Creek Impoundments, Valley County
  - — Lyons Reservoir, Blaine County
  - — McChesney Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sheridan County
  - — Milk River and its impoundments downstream from Fresno Dam
  - — Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
  - — Raymond Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Rolph Dam, Carter County
  - — Schlesinger Perch Pond, Rosebud County
  - — South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
  - — Spotted Eagle Pond, Custer County
  - — Talcott Pond, Carter County
  - — Tiber Reservoir, (Lake Elwell)
  - — Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
  - — Valley Reservoir
  - — Whiteside Reservoir, Garfield County
  - — Whitetail Reservoir, Daniels County
  - — Witkowski Reservoir, Wibaux County

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 11. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Beaver Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains).
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips County
- Open entire year to setlines.

Beaver Creek Reservoir
- No daily limit or possession limit on Northern Pike.

Big Muddy Creek
- Open entire year to setlines.

Big Sandy Creek
- Upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains).
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Clear Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains).
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Cow Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Dredge Cut Trout Pond
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks may be used to fish through ice.

Eagle Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Ester Reservoir (Phillips County)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds
- See Missouri River.

Fort Peck Reservoir (Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837)
- Open entire year for all species (except pallid sturgeon) to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Fresno Reservoir (Hill County)
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- No limit on northern pike.

Giant Springs (Great Falls) that portion enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work
- Closed entire year.

Lake Elwell
- See Tiber Reservoir.

Little Box Elder Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains).
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Lone Tree Creek and impoundments (Valley County)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Marias River

- Open entire year from I-15 bridge to Tiber Reservoir to setline fishing with up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.
- From Circle Bridge (Meisner's) to the Missouri River confluence, setline fishing is allowed with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, only one may exceed 18 inches.
- Limit: 35 whitefish.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Sheridan County)

- All lakes open to setlines.
- Medicine Lake.
  — Open November 15 through September 15.
- Gaffney Lake and Lake 10.
  — Open August 15 through March 31.
- Lake 12.
  — Open November 15 through March 31.

Milk River

- And its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
  — Closed to use of live fish for bait.
- Upstream from Fresno Reservoir (above Goldstone Bridge).
  — Open entire year to setlines.
- And its impoundments downstream from Fresno Dam.
  — Open entire year to setlines.

Missouri River

- Upstream from Morony Dam.
  — Closed to use of live fish for bait.
- Immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted.
  — Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River).
  — Open entire year to setlines.
- From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River (including Dredge Cut Ponds).
  — Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line, except up to six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
  — Limit A: Not to include more than two (2) rainbow trout.
- Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted.
  — Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted.
  — Closed March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading.
- Morony Dam downstream to North Dakota border.
  — It is illegal to snag for nongame fish.
- **Paddlefish Regulations — Missouri River (upstream from Fort Peck Dam)**
  — Open entire year to paddlefish harvest.
  — All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase and have in their possession paddlefish tags in addition to other licenses that may be required.
  — Limit: Two (2) fish per season.
  — Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful to cast for and/or hook a paddlefish for another person.
  — Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
  — Any tag which has been altered or modified shall be void.
  — It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or parts thereof. Anglers must tag paddlefish with their own tag.
  — Paddlefish anglers must either tag or release a paddlefish immediately when taken.
  — If a fish is cut up, the angler must keep that portion of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) necessary to maintain the tag sealed to the fish.
  — It is illegal to snag for nongame fish from the Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border.

- **Paddlefish Regulations — Missouri River (downstream from Fort Peck Dam)**
  - — Regulations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations. See Yellowstone River, page 47.

Musselshell River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Limit: No limit on northern pike.

Peoples Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains).
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Poplar River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Powder River and tributaries
- Open entire year to bow and arrow taking of catfish. Crossbows are illegal.

Redwater River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Ross Reservoir (Blaine County)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)
- Open February 1 through October 15.

Snake Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Sucker Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait.

Teton River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Limit: Ten (10) northern pike daily and in possession.

Tongue River Reservoir
- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Up to six (6) lines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice but the angler must be in the vicinity and within visual contact of the line(s) or rod(s) at all times.

Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its sources, excluding Ross Reservoir
- Closed entire year.

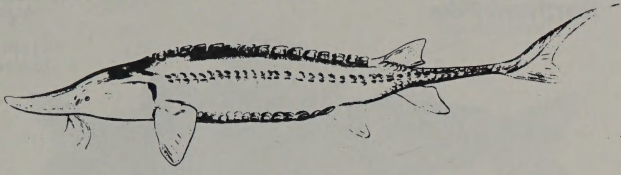
Yellowstone River
- The paddlefish fishery is managed under a quota system in conjunction with North Dakota. Each state will be allowed to harvest 1,500 paddlefish. The season will be closed on 48-hours' notice when the quota is expected to be reached.
- Call the Miles City Fish Wildlife & Parks regional office at (406) 232-4365 for current information on harvest status.
- Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream from Intake Diversion Dam).
  - — Open May 1 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited.
- From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream from Intake Diversion Dam).
  - — Open May 15 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited.
- From Intake Diversion to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted.
  - — Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats or as posted.

continued . . .

Yellowstone River, continued . . .

- **Paddlefish Regulations — Yellowstone River and Missouri River (downstream from Fort Peck Dam)**
  - — All paddlefish anglers regardless of age, must purchase and have in their possession paddlefish tags in addition to other licenses that may be required.
  - — Limit: one fish per season.
  - — Paddlefish may be harvested using hook and line and/or bow and arrow in the Fort Peck Dredge Cuts.
  - — Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful to cast for and/or hook a paddlefish for another person.
  - — Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
  - — Any tag which has been altered or modified shall be void.
  - — It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or parts thereof. Anglers must tag paddlefish with their own tag.
  - — For the Yellowstone River only — it is unlawful to release paddlefish unless accomplished in accordance with the specific catch-and-release regulations. All other paddlefish must be immediately tagged when caught. All paddlefish caught at the Intake Dam Fishing Access Site on Wednesdays and Sundays between 3PM and 9PM (Mountain Daylight Time), must be released. Anglers fishing on these days and hours must show evidence they have purchased a current year paddlefish tag. Use of gaffs during the catch-and-release time period is prohibited.
  - — If a fish is cut up, the angler must keep the dorsal fin (back fin) with sealed tag attached with the meat.

HELP PROTECT THE PALLID STURGEON



The Pallid Sturgeon is a fish of special concern in Montana and it is listed as an Endangered Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pallids are a bottom-dwelling fish of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, preferring strong currents flowing over a sandy or gravely river bottom.

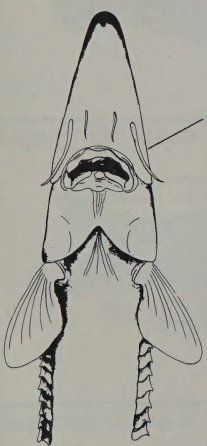
Montana law requires:

— All pallid sturgeon must be released immediately.
— All sturgeon longer than 40 inches must be released immediately.

What can you do to help conserve the Pallid Sturgeon?

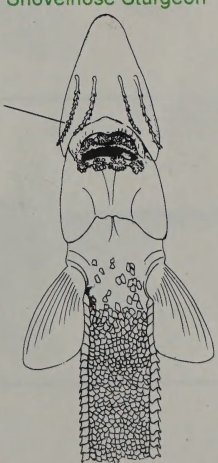
1. Learn to distinguish the Pallid from the Shovelnose Sturgeon, a smaller and more common species (see diagrams below). Since the sturgeon are hard to identify, we recommend that all sturgeon be released if you are unsure of the species.
2. Immediately and safely release the Pallid Sturgeon.
3. Contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks with any information on the location and size of Pallid Sturgeon.

Pallid Sturgeon



1. Outer barbel 2 or more times the length of inner barbel. (Be alert for broken barbels)
2. Barbels attached close to mouth, about 1/3 the distance between mouth and tip of snout.

Shovelnose Sturgeon

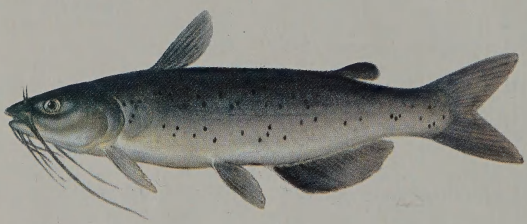


1. Outer barbel barely longer than inner barbel.
2. Barbels attached about 1/2 the distance between the mouth and tip of snout.

Warmwater Fish

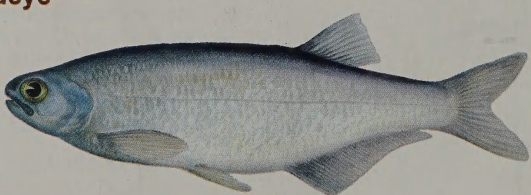
Northern Pike

Channel Catfish

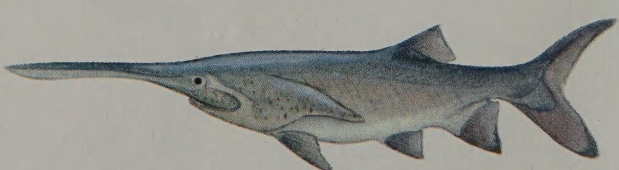


Burbot

Goldeye

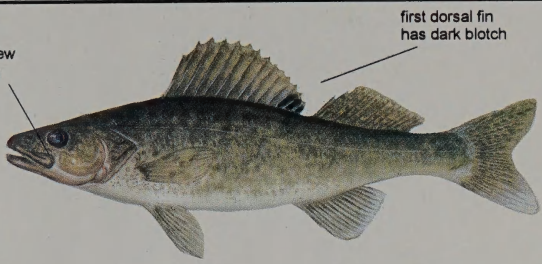


Paddlefish

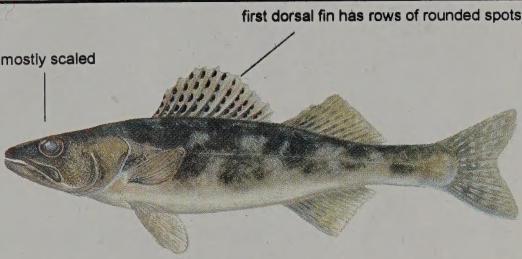


Warmwater Fish

Walleye

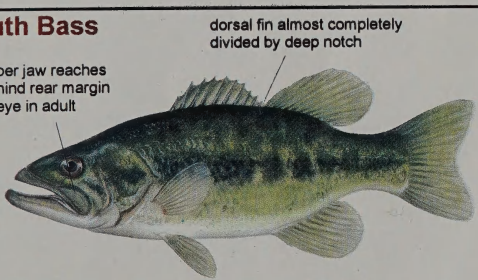


Sauger

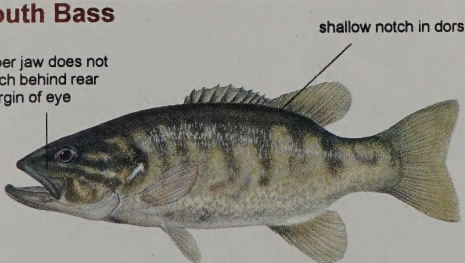


Yellow Perch

Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 E. Sixth Ave. Helena, MT 59620

help prevent the spread of

WHIRLING DISEASE

follow these rules

DO remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer and axles, waders, boots, and fishing gear ***before*** departing a fishing access site or boat dock.

DO drain all water from your boat and equipment--including coolers, buckets, and live wells--***before*** departing a fishing access site or boat dock.

DO dry your boat and equipment between river trips.

DON'T transport fish from one body of water to another.

DON'T dispose of fish entrails, skeletal parts, or other by-products in any body of water.

DON'T collect or use minnows or sculpins for bait.

DON'T use parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait.

TURN IN POACHERS

CALL **1-800-TIP-MONT** (847-6668)
WITH THIS INFORMATION:
WHAT • WHERE • WHEN • WHO • HOW